

It Gets Easier by J_st_patricks_daY28

Category: Stranger Things (TV 2016)

Genre: Anxiety, Canonical Character Death, Choking, Conflict, Depression, Emotional Hurt, Gen, Good Parent Jim "Chief" Hopper, Good Parent Joyce Byers, Good Sibling Eleven | Jane Hopper, Good Sibling Jonathan Byers, Good Sibling Will Byers, Grief/Mourning, Hurt Eleven | Jane Hopper, Hurt No Comfort, Medication, Post-Canon, Sad Seven | Kate Hopper, Seven | Kate Hopper Needs a Hug, Telekinesis, WandaVision References, but then she isn't

Language: English

Characters: Billy Hargrove, Byers Family (Stranger Things), Eleven | Jane Hopper, Jim "Chief" Hopper, Sam Owens (Stranger Things), Seven | Kate Hopper, The Party (Stranger Things)

Relationships: Eleven | Jane Hopper & Seven | Kate Hopper, Joyce Byers/Jim "Chief" Hopper, Seven | Kate Hopper/Billy Hargrove

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Summary:

mourning

/ˈmɔːnɪŋ/

Learn to pronounce

noun

the expression of sorrow for someone's death.

grief

/ɡriːf/

Learn to pronounce

noun

intense sorrow, especially caused by someone's death.

It Gets Easier

Kate had been avoiding things for a few months now, she refused to believe that Billy was dead.

If Hopper came back then surely he would too.

He had to.

Billy was very important to her. He didn't deserve to suffer. He deserved a happy ending with her. They talked about it a lot during and after the snowball. She remembers that night very vividly.

“Okay, now I'm going to spin you like you're a ballerina then I'll pull you into me, okay?”

Kate giggled as Billy spun her before bringing her back into his chest. Almost stumbling and tripping on her own feet, her small hands gripping Billy's muscular biceps for dear life.

“Woah, careful baby girl, don't want you hurting yourself.” He said with a chuckle, it wasn't his fake one that he used on the high school girls and the moms. It was genuine.

She was the only one who saw Billy for who he really was.

And for that she felt like the luckiest girl alive.

Kate straightened up her posture and gazed into billy's baby blue eyes, a small, cute smile on her face. The blonde gazed back with the same amount of adoration in eyes. One of his hands lifted up from her waist to the back of her neck, his thumb resting on her jaw. He slowly leaned in for a kiss, but she leaned back with a small gasp.

Billy was slightly confused at first before he realized.

“You've never been kissed before, have you?”

Kate slowly shook her head, her gaze shifting to the ground.

“If you want, I could show you what it feels like.” He offered, his tone

making it clear that he wasn't going to force or pressure her into anything.

She thought about it for a few moments. Her head was screaming 'yes' but her heart said, 'not ready yet'. So, she gently shook her head. "I'm not sure..."

Billy softened and kissed her forehead. "That's okay baby, whenever you're ready."

Kate smiled softly and rested her head on his chest, his heartbeat beating steadily in her ears.

She hates every inch of herself for not saying 'yes' that night.

"Kate? Sweetie what are you still doing up?" Joyce's soft tone brought her out of the flashback.

"I'm waiting for Billy; he's just working late."

"Honey, you have school tomorrow, you need to get to bed."

"Can I please stay up and wait until he gets home?"

Her family felt bad for her, so they went along with it.

One day Joyce and Hopper wanted to take her to see Dr. Owens.

"Just a check-up, sweetie." She told her daughter as they got in the car.

It wasn't exactly a lie; she did get a check-up but there was also something else. Kate was put in a room with a dial headset on her head to monitor her brain waves as she filled out a form. It said 'DEPRESSION TEST' at the top, she didn't know what that meant but she was sure she could ask about it on the way back.

Once she was finished Dr. Owens came back into the room and took the headset off her and the form from her with a polite smile. She didn't return it, only looking at her lap as her parents came in to lead her out. Kate sat on a small green sofa outside Owens' office, feeling a strange but familiar feeling in her stomach she reached into her backpack and pulled out Billy's old red silk button down shirt and put

it on.

Her thumbs fiddled with the fabric as she brought it up to her face and inhaled the scent. She was surprised it still smelt like him. Every time Joyce offers to wash it Kate immediately refuses, claiming that it'll lose its unique scent. Cigarettes, beer, and cheap cologne. When Hopper exited Owens' office he had a piece of paper and a yellow bottle with pills in it. Joyce got Kate to her feet and the three of them went home.

The car ride was quiet, save the music coming from the radio and the rumbling of the engine. Kate looked between her parents before leaning forward to ask her question. "Mom?"

"Yes, sweetie?"

"What does depression mean?"

"Why do you ask?" Joyce was taken back by Kate's question.

"It was on the sheet Dr. Owens gave me to fill out."

"Oh, well, sweetheart. Depression is something that makes you feel sad constantly and makes you lose interest in things you enjoy doing and makes daily life seem like a huge struggle."

"Is that what I have?"

"Unfortunately, yes kiddo, but fortunately there is a solution." Hopper chimed into the conversation as he drove. "Dr. Owens gave us some prescriptions to help you so that the sadness won't be constant and you'll be able to get better."

Kate only nods before slumping back in her seat, adjusting her seatbelt so it wasn't digging into her neck. She had a feeling that this was not going to be fun or easy.